



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services
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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

November 9, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: LME Directors

FROM: Mike Moseley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MM", written over the name "Mike Moseley".

RE: Request for Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Program Development Funding – SFY '08

Local law enforcement officers may commonly be called upon to intervene when people with mental illness are experiencing a psychiatric crisis. All too often when this occurs, individuals with mental illness end up in jail rather than in treatment. A national best practice model alternative, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), is a law enforcement-based, pre-booking jail diversion initiative. CIT, which was first developed in Memphis, Tennessee, aims to prevent the inappropriate incarceration of people with mental illness by training law enforcement officers to better understand and intervene more effectively with people with mental illness and direct them to appropriate care rather than to jail, when this can be done at little risk to the public's safety.

The N.C. General Assembly provided funding in the SFY 2007-2008 budget to expand CIT programs statewide across North Carolina. Each LME will receive \$2,000 this year to use for CIT purposes. The funds will be allocated upon the receipt of the attached form indicating how the LMEs intend to use these funds during SFY 2008. LMEs that already have CIT-trained law enforcement agencies may use these new funds to expand or improve their existing CIT programs; LMEs that do not currently have CIT trained law enforcement agencies will use the funds to initiate a program in their catchment area. The funds are recurring and will be available in subsequent years to support the ongoing development, expansion and enhancement of CIT programs.

The Division of MH/DD/SAS has additional funding available at the statewide level to provide technical assistance to LMEs and law enforcement agencies to ensure the success of CIT. LMEs should contact Bob Kurtz of the Justice Systems Team at Bob.Kurtz@ncmail.net, or by phone at 919-715-2771 to access this technical assistance or for help in developing plans. Completed plans should be submitted to Bob as well.

Cc: Secretary Dempsey Benton
Dan Stewart
Executive Leadership Team
Management Leadership Team
State Facility Directors
Yvonne Copeland
Patrice Roesler
MH Commission Chair
The Coalition Chair
NC Sheriff's Association

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Sharnese Ransome
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